



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
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N.H. Department of Safety photo.

Wendy Barrett, widow of David T. Barrett, former Director of Safety Services, pours champagne on the N.H. Marine Patrol's newest patrol vessel the *David T. Barrett*, during a christening ceremony on Jan 2. Commissioner of Safety John J. Barthelmes stands to the right. Director Barrett died Oct. 18, 2011 at the age of 64, after serving the Department of Safety for 19 years.

JUDGE SAYS VY CAN CONTINUE OPERATING – A federal judge has sided with the owner of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant and ruled that VY can continue operating after March when its original license expires. The State of Vermont had gone to court to try to shut the plant down, despite the approval by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of a 20-year license extension. On Jan. 19, U.S. District Court Judge Garvan Murtha ruled that federal law trumps Vermont's law giving the state a say in approving the plant's license. Vermont is the only state with a law that gives it a role in approving nuclear plant's licenses. The state's attorney general is reviewing the judge's ruling to decide whether to appeal.

NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JOINS HSEM – Plymouth Police Chief Steve Temperino has been confirmed by the N.H. Executive Council as the new Assistant Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. He replaces Kathryn E. Douth, who is staying with the agency temporarily as a part-time administrator to assist in the transition. Chief Temperino was in the state Emergency Operations Center to observe the Seabrook Combined Functional Drill on Jan. 24-25. He assumes his new role in a few weeks.

In other personnel changes at HSEM, Diane Becker, formerly Assistant Chief of Operations, has been named Chief of Technological Hazards, and Fallon Reed, formerly Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator, has been named Planning Analyst at the Information and Analysis Center. Also, Chuck Redfern has joined HSEM as Finance Officer and Alex Gill has joined the Planning Section as a part-time Program Assistant

DHHS AND DES FLOODED WHEN PIPES BURST – Most employees of the departments of Health and Human Services and Environmental Services who work at 29 Hazen Drive in Concord were unable to return to work after Martin Luther King/Civil Rights Day when pipes froze and burst over the holiday weekend, flooding portions of the building. Rapid cleanup work and testing of building systems by state personnel got most of the building reopened on Wednesday, Jan. 18, but the state Public Health Laboratory could not be reoccupied until Friday, Jan. 20. Normal operations resumed over the following week. Public health labs in nearby states temporarily picked up the lab work. The cause of the problem was determined to be a malfunctioning alarm system that failed to alert authorities when the building temperature dropped over the weekend after the furnace failed. The building and its facilities have been returned to normal operations.

DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR SBA LOANS - Eligible private non-profit (PNP) organizations must submit applications by Feb. 3 for U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loans for physical damages caused by the severe storm and snowstorm that occurred on Oct. 29-30, 2011. These loans are available to PNPs located in Hillsborough and Rockingham counties. Eligible PNPs are those that provide noncritical services such as: food kitchens, homeless shelters, museums, libraries, community centers and colleges.

Disaster loan information and application forms may be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or by sending email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Applications can also be downloaded from www.sba.gov.

2-1-1 REPORTS CALLS UP 11 PERCENT – 2-1-1 New Hampshire, the state's information and referral hotline, saw its call volume increase to 44,327 in 2011, an increase of 11 percent over 2010. It also serves as the Public Inquiry line for the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management during active disaster. 2-1-1 NH took more than 1,100 disaster-related calls during Tropical Storm Irene. The agency, a project of United Ways of New Hampshire, operates out of the Public Service Co. of New Hampshire call center in Manchester, with technical support from the utility.

2-1-1 NH's top five call categories in 2011 were: information services, housing and shelter, utilities, tax preparation services and individual and family support services. The agency has been in operation since 2008. For more information on 2-1-1 NH, go to www.211nh.org.

SEABROOK EXERCISE CONDUCTED JAN. 24-25 – The first Combined Functional Drill in this year's Seabrook Station exercise sequence was conducted Jan. 24-25, involving the nuclear power plant, state Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine, local EOCs and a variety of other state and federal assets. The first day of the exercise was a 10-mile plume pathway scenario, which ended with the evacuation of the entire Emergency Planning Zone. The second day included re-entry and recovery plans for the 50-mile ingestion pathway. The next exercise in the sequence will be March 13-14.

FIRST FLU CASES CONFIRMED – With winter here it should be no surprise that influenza is going around. The Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Laboratories identified the first the cases of seasonal flu in the state in early January. The cases were confirmed in one adult and two children. But flu is not a reportable disease, so it is likely that it had been circulating for some time. Public Health Director Dr. Jose Montero said the confirmed cases are a reminder to anyone who has not received a flu vaccine to get one. He said vaccination is the best way for everyone to protect themselves and their families. As of early January, the DHHS Immunization Program had distributed more than 147,000 doses of flu vaccine for children 18 and younger.

For more information about the flu or flu vaccine contact the N.H. Immunization Program at 271-4482 or the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control and Surveillance Section at 271-4496. You can also visit the CDC website, www.cdc.gov/flu and www.dhhs.nh.gov for regular updates of the latest flu conditions in New Hampshire and nationally.

REGION SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE POWER FOR WINTER – New England is expected to have sufficient supplies of electric power through the winter, according to ISO New England, the regional power grid operator. The agency says the six-state region has total generation and demand-side resources totaling 33,200 megawatts (MW). Under normal winter temperatures of about 7 degrees Fahrenheit, demand is expected to peak at 22,225 MW. Under more extreme conditions of about 1.6 degrees F., demand could reach 22,935 MW. Last winter's peak demand reached 21,060 MW on Jan. 24, 2011. The highest-ever winter demand was 22,935 MW reached on Jan. 15, 2004.

Keep up with emergency preparedness information in New Hampshire on www.readynh.nh.gov and [Twitter.com/ReadyNH](https://twitter.com/ReadyNH).